

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending in this application. Claim 13 is amended and claims 18-21 are added. Claims 1-12, 14, 15 and 17 have been withdrawn from consideration. It is respectfully request that the withdrawal be withdrawn.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiner Lugo in the November 15 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

In paragraphs 2-5, on pages 2-4 of the Office Action, a restriction/election requirement is provided that concludes with the requirement that Applicant must affirm the election made on September 7, 2004. Applicants affirm that election with traverse.

Firstly, claims 1-12, 14, 15 and 17 have been examined twice before in this application. The amendments made to claims 1, 4, 10 and 12 in the Amendment filed June 1, 2004, were not so extensive, nor did they raise issues that had not been previously raised, to require a restriction at this stage of prosecution. To require a restriction/election after twice considering the claims does not appear to be warranted and clearly creates an undue burden upon Applicant. Further, it is submitted that the claims that have been withdrawn, are sufficiently related to the claims remaining in the application that to consider one would entail considering the other. Therefore it is respectfully requested that the restriction/election requirement be withdrawn and prosecution proceed with all claims.

In paragraph 7, on page 4 of the Office Action, claims 13 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Rubber Stamps.com as modified by Gottsman et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,134,548 (hereinafter "Gottsman") in view of Lemchen, U.S. Patent No. 6,594,642, and further in view of Harrington et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,161,099 (hereinafter "Harrington"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

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